

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/914,193

Examiner

Marina Fishman

Applicant(s)

BANGHARD ET AL.

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/20/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 9-15 and 18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/24/2004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Donad Daley on 2/24/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: in line 15, "." has been changed to -,- and following paragraph has been added – wherein the plate forms a relatively flat top portion of the enclosure and wherein the plate is connected to the stationary contact tip via a centering stub which is relatively shorter than the cylindrical bolt.--.

Claim 9: in lines 1 and 2 "The vacuum switching chamber as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plate is directly connected to the stationary contact." has been changed to
-- A vacuum switching chamber for switching short-circuit currents in the low-voltage range, including a stationary contact tip and a contact tip which can move axially with respect to the stationary contact tip, each contact tip including an associated power current connection, comprising:

an enclosure which surrounds the contacts, with the power current connection of the moving contact tip being in the form of a cylindrical bolt, the enclosure including rigid metal parts, an annular insulator and a resilient gas-tight metallic separating wall, connected to one another in an arrangement and connected in a gas-tight manner to the power current connections of the contact tips, and surrounding one of the rigid metal parts together with both the stationary contact tip and the moving contact tip, wherein the power current connection of the stationary contact tip is in the form of a plate, the metal part which surrounds the two contact tips is tubular and is connected at the end to the plate, wherein the resilient, metallic separating wall includes a membrane which is provided with concentric corrugations, is in the form of a disk, and is soldered on one side to the power current connection of the moving contact tip and on the other side via an axially running annular flange to the annular insulator, wherein the plate forms a relatively flat top portion of the enclosure and wherein the plate is directly connected to the stationary contact.— .

Claim 10: in line 8, "." has been changed to -,- and following paragraph has been added –wherein the plate-like power current connection for the stationary contact is connected to the

stationary contact via a centering stub which is relatively shorter than the bolt.—.

Claim 18: has been replaced with -- A vacuum switching chamber, comprising:

a stationary contact,

a movable contact, movable with respect to the stationary contact;

a bolt, in contact with the movable contact and acting as a power current connection for the moveable contact;

an enclosure surrounding the contacts and the bolt;

and

a plate-like power current connection for the stationary contact, the plate-like power current connection forming a relatively flat top portion of the enclosure, wherein the plate-like power current connection for the stationary contact is directly connected to the stationary contact —.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1 – 4, 6, 9 – 15 and 18 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the claimed elements, a vacuum switching chamber for switching short-circuit currents in the low-voltage range with a power current connection of a stationary contact tip is in the form of a plate and a power current connection for a moving

Art Unit: 2832

contact tip in a form of a cylindrical bolt and an enclosure, which surrounds contacts. The enclosure having an annular insulator and a resilient gas-tight metallic separating wall includes a membrane which is provided with concentric corrugations, is in the form of a disk, wherein the plate forms a relatively flat top portion of the enclosure and wherein the plate is connected to the stationary contact tip via a centering stub which is relatively shorter than the cylindrical bolt.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Fishman whose telephone number is 571-272-1991. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5 M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2832

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marina Fishman
March 2, 2004


LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2103